

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 EB-07

AID-05 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 /112 W

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R 270525Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8232

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, CH, IN, KS, NP, PK, UR, USUN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ON KEY FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS

1. DURING A MEETING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY WITH  
PAB DIRECTO CONSTABLE AND AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN  
AHMED OFFERED FOLLOWING REVIEW OF BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2. PAKISTAN. RESPONDING TO CONSTABLE'S STATEMENT THAT IN  
HIS VISIT TO ISLAMABAD HE HAD FOUND KEEN INTEREST ON PART OF  
PAKISTANIS IN MOVING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TO IMPROVE  
RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH, FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS  
PERSONAL OPTIMISM ABOUT EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A FULL REPORT ON  
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BDG FOREIGN MINISTER CHOWDHURY AND PAKISTAN'S  
STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED IN NEW YORK  
SEPT. 24 BUT FELT THE TWO SIDES WERE NOT FAR APART. ASKED HOW  
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BIHARI AND ASSETS ISSUES MIGHT AFFECT THE DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID

THAT THESE ISSUES WERE STILL THERE AND MUST BE DEALT WITH BUT THAT HE DID NOT THINK THEY WERE A BAR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. HE THOUGHT THE DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK WOULD COVER MODALITIES FOR ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES AND LEFT US WITH IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS MIGHT FOLLOW FAIRLY SOON AFTER THE NEW YORK TALKS.

3. INDIA. THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROBLEM IN INDIAN-BANGLADESH RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUP, HE SAID, WHEN THE INDIAN PRESS HAD BEEN QUITE CRITICAL ABOUT THE CHANGE. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO MRS. GANDHI AND THE ASSURANCES BDG HAD GIVEN INDIA HAD GOTTEN THEM PAST THESE DIFFICULTIES AND THERE WAS A GOOD ATMOSPHERE NOW. NOR WERE FARAKKA BARRAGE AND MARITIME BOUNDARY PROBLEM DIVISIVE ISSUES AT THE MOMENT. THERE WOULD NOT BE FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH INDIA UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR ON FARAKKA, ON WHICH THE CURRENT TEMPORARY AGREEMENT DID NOT EXPIRE UNTIL DECEMBER, AND THE MARITIME BOUNDARY ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN MINISTERIAL TALKS WITH INDIA AND BURMA WHICH WOULD TAKE TIME TO ARRANGE. BDG, HE SAID, WAS SATISFIED WITH PRESENT STATUS OF BOTH THESE MATTERS.

4. CHINA. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES SINCE HE HAD REPORTED TO US LAST, THERE HAD BEEN NO CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR KAISER HAD BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE TO VIETNAMESE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN HANOI AND SENT IN HIS ASSESSMENT THAT CHINESE WANTED TO WAIT TO SEE HOW BDG'S RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN DEVELOPED. INDEED IT WAS THEIR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND CHINA TO THIS EFFECT. FOREIGN SECRETARY CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS, HOWEVER, BY SAYING HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED WITH CHINA AND A CHINESE MISSION SET UP IN DACCA BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WHICH STRENGTHENS OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE BELIEVES TIES WITH ISLAMABAD MAY BE IMMINENT. HE NOTED THAT TRADE WAS ALREADY GOING ON WITH CHINA AND FORESAW A GRADUAL EXPANSION OF THIS TRADE.

5. SOVIET UNION. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT HERE AGAIN THERE HAD BEEN DIFFICULTIES AFTER THE COUP, WITH SOVIET PRESS PRINTING HIGHLY CRITICAL MATERIAL ON BANGLADESH. THEY HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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REACHED CONCLUSION THAT, WITH NO SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN DACCA AND NO BDG AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, SOVIET GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WAS NOT RECEIVING AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADESH AND HAD CONSEQUENTLY SENT SPECIAL ENVOY, MOHIUDDIN AHMED, TO MOSCOW TO BRIEF SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES. HE HAD STRESSED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN BDG'S FOREIGN POLICY, THAT BDG WISHED TO BE TRULY NON-ALIGNED, THAT OPENING TO CHINA AND OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE AT EXPENSE

OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AND THAT IT WISHED TO CONTINUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT. MOHIUDDIN AHMED HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND THEY HAD BEEN PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CRITICAL COMMENTARY OUT OF MOSCOW SINCE HIS DISCUSSIONS THERE.

6. KOREAN QUESTION AT UN. AT END OF DISCUSSION, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO POLITICAL COUNSELLOR'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (DACCA'S 4734) AND SAID HE WANTED TO UNDERSCORE FOR FOREIGN SECRETARY HOW SERIOUSLY WE REGARDED THIS ISSUE. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH CONSTABLE ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE WASHINGTON ATTACHED TO COOPERATION ON THIS MATTER, FOREIGN SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT BDG HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS AND DID NOT WANT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST EITHER. HE SAID THEY HAD AN OPEN MIND AND WOULD TAKE FULL NOTE OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS. WHEN AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD BEEN PUZZLED BY BANGLADESH'S VOTING IN THE GA'S GENERAL COMMITTEE ON THE AGENDA SEPTEMBER 17 WHEN IT HAD TILTED IN FAVOR OF NORTH KOREA, RESPRFSE WAS THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN VERY IMPORTANT AS IT HAD BEEN MERELY PROCEDURAL.  
BOSTER

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